

Diagnosis from Ocular Symptoms. By Matthias Lanckton Foster. New York: Rebman Company. 1917.

This book will prove of interest mainly to the teacher of ophthalmology looking for an outline of important clinical points to present to his students, or to the student himself to supplement literature. The main lesions of the eye and their significance are discussed in simple manner, but with excellent clinical judgment. The unessentials are disregarded. It would be a good book for the general medical man to possess as it gives short and well put clinical facts and discussions of important eye lesions. H. B.

Venesection. Brief summary of the practical value of venesection in disease. By Walton Forest Dutton. Philadelphia: Davis. 1916. Price \$2.50.

It is undoubtedly true that venesection is a neglected form of treatment and is applicable in many disease conditions. The past history of this useful procedure has been well written by medical authorities long since dead.

It still remains for some modern author to deal adequately with the topic. The book above mentioned probably is a serious effort to do this, but it fails woefully to come up to any modern scientific standard. It deals with venesection as a treatment to many diseases, such as angina pectoris, beriberi, yellow fever, migraine, etc. But an author who can state that "rheumatism is a constitutional disease, the cause of which has not been determined, and that it may be acute or chronic," is hardly to be taken seriously, even should he recommend venesection. Even the illustrations in the book, which are undoubtedly taken from some antiquated instrument catalog, are more amusing than illuminating. Therefore we can only recommend the book as one to skim over and pick out such suggestions as may stimulate further investigation and more accurate clinical observation.

S. T. P.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. A handbook for students. By Edward O. Otis. Boston: W. M. Leonard. 1917.

This little book should fill quite a want in our library of tuberculosis. It adds nothing new, but presents the subject in condensed form from the viewpoints of a teacher of many years' experience. The book is rather a compendium on tuberculosis and is written and planned for the medical student primarily.

The chapters upon prognosis, prophylaxis and marriage and tuberculosis deserve special mention. The intelligent co-operation of the patient as affecting his recovery is emphasized, a point much to be commended.

The numerous conditions which produce tuberculosis, beginning with childhood infection; the strengthening of natural resistance in young adult life; the prevention of active tuberculosis from latent infection; the improvement of working and housing conditions, are impressed upon the reader.

Finally, the author does not absolutely forbid marriage between tuberculars, but warns against a woman bearing a child until two years after the disease has been arrested, and then only if her status in life is such that no great demands are made upon her strength. Under these conditions a healthy child may be reared. An arrested tuberculous male may marry if his responsibilities are not too burdensome.

As a practical abridged sketch of the entire subject of pulmonary tuberculosis, this book can be recommended to students of medicine.

W. C. V.

Clinical Tuberculosis. By F. M. Pottenger. With a chapter on laboratory methods by J. E. Pottenger. 2 volumes. St. Louis: Mosby, 1917. Price \$12.00.

These two large volumes on tuberculosis view the subject from the standpoint of pathological anatomy, pathological physiology, diagnosis, prognosis, complications and treatment. They may be used for reference on certain subjects of special interest or for more extended reading. Each chapter is very complete in itself, and this, I believe, is one of the strong points in favor of this work compared with many where it is necessary to spend much time referring to other chapters. Each section is conscientiously and fully covered and supplemented by many charts, diagrams and X-ray photographs.

The writer, among other things, has gone considerably into detail in regard to the part played in clinical tuberculosis by the vegetative nervous system. As he admits, that system does not account for all the signs and symptoms, but he has carefully described and elaborated the possibilities.

The pathological anatomy and physiology of the infection is traced from its appearance in childhood though its often latent period to the active disease of adult life. By carefully understanding the transition an early diagnosis is more often made than would otherwise be possible. Considerable attention is paid to these early signs and symptoms and their importance.

The complications of tuberculosis cover a very large field and different methods of treating them is of importance to all of us.

In conclusion, these volumes of Pottenger's, divided as they are into small chapters, make very interesting and instructive reading for reference as well as study and in these 1400 pages all different aspects of the disease are considered and thoroughly discussed.

P. H. P.

A Text-Book on the Practice of Gynecology. For Practitioners and Students. By W. Easterly Ashton, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Gynecology in Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Sixth Edition, thoroughly revised. Octavo of 1097 pages with 1052 original line drawings. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Cloth, \$6.50 net; half morocco, \$8.00 net.

The sixth edition of this very complete gynecology will be an especially welcome addition to the library of the young practitioner. The changes are many, including not only treatment, conservative and operative, but also bacteriology and pathology. Into a book of 1100 pages is crowded not only the specialty of gynecology, but also chapters on intestinal surgery and kidney surgery. One wonders a little—why not go on to gall-bladder surgery? However, the author probably does attempt to remind one that it is necessary to be a general surgeon before becoming a gynecologist. This must be continually emphasized, for one still sees the abdomen opened for a simple suspension and the gall stones left intact, not even palpated.

The chapter on cancer of the uterus is decisive and the procrastinating medical man is prodded to immediate diagnosis. Description and pictures are so complete that the mind absorbs all the details without effort. The author leaves not the slightest detail to the imagination. This, while a little irksome to the experienced man, is all the more valuable to the young practitioner. In this book he will find many happy suggestions. As in a reference book, each condition being treated in full and systematic fashion, no time is wasted in hunting through other pages. The young doctor beginning to teach will find this book especially excel-

lent, as it emphasizes the small details so valuable to the student and too often taken for granted by the general instructor. Treatment is complete, with chapters on hydrotherapy, X-ray, diet and saline injections. At first glance one misses the halftones of other books, but the drawings prove very satisfactory.

Altogether the book can be well accorded a place in the well-equipped medical library.

M. I. J.

Post-Mortem Examinations. By William S. Wadsworth, M. D., Coroner's Physician of Philadelphia. Octavo volume of 598 pages, with 304 original illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$6.00 net; Half Morocco, \$7.50 net.

The author, as stated in his preface, has based his book and his illustrations on his personal experience and thought, which covers a period of sixteen years and an observation of more than four thousand post-mortems. He states, at the outset, his purpose to try to encourage a more scientific and thoughtful study of the human body on the part of the post-mortem surgeons, and to stimulate higher ethical standards and a broader view, which is offered those engaged in this profession. The book as a whole is well gotten up and orderly in the arrangement of its contents. The topics are well outlined and indexed. The reading matter, from cover to cover, reveals a passion on the part of the author to remodel or revise some of the present post-mortem methods and customs. His criticisms of the technic and practices of some of the present day post-mortem surgeons is at times severe. Especially does he criticize the careless worker, also those who methodically follow a set routine, particularly the students of Virchow.

However, in spite of tendency to criticise, he, himself, occasionally drops into the straits from which he would warn others; as, for instance, his constant reminder that one should search for facts based on direct evidence rather than on notion or biased statement, seems somewhat vitiated by such statements as appear on page 67, in the section on hair, where the following appears: "The association of red hair of a deep brownish copper type with blood vessel disease is most striking. I have come to speak of this type as hemic hair. The coarse sparse hair of gastritis and the fine buff colored hair of old liver degeneration are very characteristic." Personally I have never seen or heard of such associations, but this may be due to lack of observation on my part.

It seems the book is so full of detail, that it should in a general way belong to an anatomical dissecting room, rather than for use in the average run of post-mortems where the operator's time is quite limited by the various demands, of undertakers, friends and relatives, etc., which interfere with careful lengthy dissections of any but the particular parts involved. The book also carries one afield somewhat into the realms of physics, chemistry, physiology and anatomy, probably more than is indicated under the present title.

In general, there is much that can be obtained by way of the author's personal experience and suggestion that would be helpful to anyone interested in post-mortem work. I consider his chapters on Phenomena of Death (Part 1), Mortuaries (Part 2), Examination of the Body (Part 3), and Medico-Legal Post-Mortems (Part 5), quite interesting, instructive and worth while. E. W. S.

State Society Notes

IMPORTANT NOTICE—TO CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE INDEMNITY DEFENSE FUND.

Notes are now becoming due.

Do not let your membership lapse.

Each member will be informed ten days in advance of the due date of his note.

DEFENSE AFFORDED ONLY TO MEMBERS WHOSE DUES ARE KEPT FULLY PAID.

Medical Defense Rules, Section 3: "Dues must be paid to the Secretary of the County Medical Society to which each member belongs prior to the end of February of each year. Any member whose dues are not paid prior to March 1st and whose name is not reported as having paid his dues by the Secretary of his County Medical Society is dropped from the list of members in good standing as of January 1st of such year, and such member is deprived of Medical Defense afforded by the State Society for the period from January 1st of such year to the date when his assessment is received by the State Society. Members whose assessments are not received on or before February 15th of each year will be notified by letter from the Secretary of the State Society of such fact."

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Medical Society of the State of California, the question was raised as to what stand the insurance companies had taken on the matter of service in the Medical Section of the Officers' Reserve Corps in the present war. Dr. Pope, State Secretary, is investigating the matter of insurance rates, recent rulings, if any, and what provisions are made for physicians in the present crisis. A resumé of this inquiry will be furnished in the near future.

NOTICE.

Information has come in the possession of the Police Department of San Francisco to the effect that a middle-aged German woman has been going the rounds of the doctors' offices offering for sale a mouthpiece attachment for the telephone, also a memorandum pad to attach to the telephone, both of which are said to be laden with disease germs of some description. Should any physician come in contact with this woman, he should detain her on some pretext and notify the police.